

Amendments to the specification, with markings to show changes made:

Please replace the paragraphs at page 21, line 20 to page 22, lines 8 with the following amended paragraphs, marked to show the changes made:

Figure 5b shows an alternative endo-probe construction 510. In accordance with this embodiment, the endo-probe 510 has a housing or shroud 511 for holding ~~an~~ a side-firing optical fiber structure 512. The optical fiber structure 512 has a beveled region 516 that is beveled to an angle of approximately 30 to 45 degrees relative to the axis of the side-firing optical fiber structure 512. The preferred angle of the beveled region 516 can depend on the media or medium in which the laser is being operated (e.g. air versus liquid). In accordance with this embodiment, laser radiation 514 is emitted from a side-firing firing-region portion 513 on the side-firing optical fiber structure that is opposite the beveled region 516 and at an angle relative to the axis of the side-firing optical fiber structure 512, as determined by the angle of the beveled region 516. The side-firing portion 513 preferably extends outward from the housing or shroud 511. The endo-probe construction 510 is particularly useful for providing the surgeon with alternative approach angles during the treatment and/or dissection of FVMs. Preferably, the endo-probe construction 510 is configured with a beam-blocking or shield structure 515 that can be integral with the housing or shroud 511, as shown, or alternatively can be separate from the housing or shroud 511. The beam-blocking or shield structure 515 blocks unwanted forward propagating laser radiation and/or controls the application of laser radiation during laser assisted vitreoretinal surgery. The housing or shroud 511 can be flexible or bendable allowing the approach angle of the laser radiation 514 to be readily changed during the treatment/and or dissection of FVMs.

Figure 5c illustrates an endo-probe construction 520 configured with a bent beam-blocking or shield structure 525. The endo-probe construction 520 has a housing or shroud 521 which can be flexible or bendable, as previously explained. The housing or shroud 521 holds ~~an~~ a side-firing optical fiber structure 522 and bends to allow a surgeon to control the approach angle of the laser radiation 524 during the treatment/and or dissection of FVMs. The side-firing optical fiber structure 522 has a side-firing firing-region portion 523 that preferably emits the laser radiation 524 at an angle relative to the axis of the body of the side-firing optical fiber structure 522, as determined by the angle of the beveled region 526 opposite ~~[[of]]~~ the firing region 523. The side-firing portion 523 preferably extends outward from the housing or shroud 521. The beam-blocking or shield structure 525 curves around the beveled region 526 of the

side-firing optical fiber structure 522 in order to block unwanted laser radiation during laser assisted vitreoretinal surgery and assists the surgeon in the manipulation of tissue near the tip of the fiber. The side-firing optical fiber structure 520, like the side-firing optical fiber construction 512 shown in Figure 5b, allows the surgeon to use different approach angles that otherwise can be difficult to achieve with a straight fiber, such as shown in Figure 5a.